

# *field report #2*

## *November 25th, 2019*

ANCIENT WAYS

NHIMBE  
FOR  
PROGRESS



## “MMC” Camp a Huge Success!

**Three times a year we do our best to hold the Mhandara Monthly Care MMC Camp.** This particular weekend, 345 girls found their way after school, from quite a distance, packing their bedroll, clothing and a pint of mealie meal to contribute to the menu. Girls arrived all afternoon, some in a borrowed truck. We always hope that our plans for the weekend will be supported by decent weather. This camp was very reasonable with a small amount of rain and threatening clouds after the first day. Everyone is grateful for the moisture after 2019's tough dry year.

This summer's camp is unique because some government officials attended, in addition to our team. A member of Parliament (MP), councilors,

headmasters, and local police came, as well as many parents, for a 3 hour presentation. We gave the girls an extra US quality stainless needle for their sewing kits, as well as the three soccer balls from One World Play. 75 MMC start-up kits were distributed. Marimba music was offered by both Humwe and the Nhimbe MMC girls. Traditional dancing and singing also entertained the crowd, along with individual poetry perspectives about being an MMC teen here.

Everyone is so grateful that we care about these girls at this tender age. The MP's speech was particularly focused on propelling MMC into expansion. There was a great enthusiasm to spread “*kutambarara*” this empowering work!

Its really a huge job to run

the camp. There are 15 volunteers who are recognized with a small stipend and gift. Everyone works so well together, like a well-oiled machine, very much the Shona nature. It all came off without a hitch, impressing everyone with their leadership expertise.

The girls have fun, learn new things about life as well as practical skills, and make like-minded friends. They get to be involved in

much kitchen and water hauling duty plus other chores to keep things moving. Song and dance resounds for the three day-and-night adventure!

Zimbabwe Field Report #2

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### Special points of interest:

- *Upcoming Health Forum this week with all 6 villages.*
- *We are watching the covo starts take root with drip.*
- *Girls Marimba coming up this next week!*

**“There was a great enthusiasm to spread ‘*kutambarara*’ this empowering work!”**





*...the weather continues...*



*...as does well testing...*



## Moringa Trees Getting a Start

Moringa trees are called The Tree of Life partly because of their tremendous varied uses for all parts of the trees. The nutrition surpasses common vegetables and fruits and tastes like a pleasant green, similar to spinach. With fertility at near 100% and sprouting taking a mere few days, its every farmers dream.

Our goal is to plant some moringa here before we leave. First, in the preschool garden. Whitney, who has been researching it, suggests a row that would be planted closer together and then pruned to keep at about 3' high. This causes it to bush out and create more leaf rather than seed.

We hope to inspire the volunteers who were excited last week to follow

through, with preparing one more bed. We could use that 2nd 30 meters roll drip hose to set up the moringa trees that would both provide residents with an example and also be feeding the children continually. This time of year they grow easily but also, within about 20 days the root develops a tuber that makes them drought tolerant.

Standreck "Tichaona" Musarurwa has taken quite an interest in the Moringa tree program. He ran our tsotso stove program years ago. He has returned to the area and has been studying wild tree propagation among other things, being an avid learner. We are hopeful he will be sticking around to help as that would be good to have follow up. Whitney and he are often found discussing the latest growth in the

moringa sprouts that they have been starting.

Whitney re-purposed our egg crate to start 30 little seedling now a couple inches tall. Standreck used some plastic beverage containers and if you look closely you will see 1/3" sprout in each of them. Some writers say direct seeding is preferred... but we are just having too much fun experimenting.

**Haven't been able to share Carina's videos because they are such high quality, that they are very, very large—so instead, here is her picture!**



## Ancient Ways

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**A Child's Life is the Path**



## Pricey Petrol Queues

**Zimbabwe is really hurting when you see the long, long lines of vehicles waiting for petrol.** When you find it at the regular pump, its 1.20 Zim bond per litre, which is about \$4.60 USD per gallon. Some days there is nothing but parallel market. We hear stories that its \$10 USD for 3 litres, which can be found here and there in the dark streets at night. But also there are places selling 10 litres for 200 RTGS. Its also advertised along the road sides for \$1.50 USD per litre. There is a place that takes USD but the queue for that is also around the block. So take your pick. Cosmas' car is about 1/2 full with 40 litres, so this brings on serious financial situations. We only come to town for important things like food, supplies, etc. We've blown our fuel budget already.

In town, most people take combis, which are vans designed in Japan for 15 small passengers, but often there are 20 people, plus chickens parcels, etc. These cost around \$2 USD. Large busses also can be taken for the long trips to town, which is \$6 USD one way.

A huge challenge is that without electricity, there are of course no traffic lights. Winifilda is still without elec-

## Who Are We? And, How Do We Work?

**Ancient Ways** was founded in 1993 by Jaiaen Beck in Lacomb OR, established as a non-profit in 1994, receiving charitable tax status in 1996. Over the last 25 years we have worked to preserve the life-giving traditions of indigenous peoples, with a focus on their music, art and healing practices.

**Nhimbe for Progress** was started in 1999 by Jaiaen and Cosmas Magaya, established as a Trust in 2010. Over the last 20 years, overcoming all obstacles presented by economic hardships and volatile political policies, we have developed an infrastructure for success, continuity, and permanence. In 2013, Patricia Nyamande Magaya joined the Nhimbe team as a co-director, providing the gifts and talents to assure efficacy and detail business management of our growing programs and services, also managing solo the Mhandara Monthly Care program. Nhimbe focuses on uplifting the rural residents' sub-standard living conditions to better assure preservation of Shona heritage.

tricity since the 1st of this month. Garbage pickup hasn't happened for many years, so its piled and burned on corners, adding to the general pollution and deadly plastic smoke. Lets' not even talk about the water. This is the state of affairs! The queue below is at least a kilometer long and some people sleep in their cars.



## SODIS & Schweppes

**Where can we buy 2-liter plastic PET (safe for solar disinfection of water) bottles?** Recall the SODIS system that has been spread around the world by the Swiss after many years of research by several countries? It is an incredible system that allows just ordinary sunshine, of about 8 hours, to purify water at 99% or more.

Ten years ago, we had walked into Schweppes and they immediately sent us to the manager's office, where after some discussion they had sold us bottles in bulk. We went back there this last week, but many changes have been

made with people and departments, so no one there had any idea to whom we should talk.

After quite a bit of running around, we met with the Schweppes corporate manager in their sustainability division, which is part of their marketing program. It was sounding like they may even donate our needed bottles! We are fully prepared to pay for them, but it may not come to that. Our next meeting was today, but now has been changed to Saturday. Check later for the next chapter!